

Well, today, it appears that officials at the Internal Revenue Service had the last laugh. On Friday, the IRS admitted to the political profiling of conservative groups and that senior-level officials were aware of these actions as far back as 2011.

This, on top of new revelations in the ongoing Benghazi terrorist attack investigation, one could say it's been a bad week for the White House. But it doesn't stop there. Yesterday, it was reported the Justice Department used a secret subpoena to obtain 2 months of phone records for Associated Press reporters and editors without notifying the news organization.

It has been a bad week for the White House, Mr. Speaker, but an even worse week for the Constitution, which is no laughing matter. The American people deserve answers from the White House concerning these abuses. The constitutional protections of free Americans and a free press—the foundations of our democracy—are at stake.

BENGHAZI

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are trying to tar anyone in sight with Benghazi. Next they're going for the former Joint Chief of Staff and a former Ambassador who did the investigation. But their investigation mandate was not talking points. It was:

Whether the attacks were security related; whether security systems and procedures were adequate and implemented properly.

They have found that they most definitely were not, resulting in four tragic deaths. Talking points say a lot about bureaucratic in-fighting. We have yet to get to the real investigation of the causes and most especially how to prevent another Benghazi. That is our mission. Let's get to it this week.

STATE SECRETS VS. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when I went to the Soviet Union in the 1980s, the Communist leaders told me that they believed in and had a free press and they also had free speech. However, I also learned that Soviet law prohibited these freedoms when they jeopardized state secrets—or national security, as we call it in America. The state-secret provision was so broad the Soviet press and speech were gagged and shackled. They certainly were not free.

Now we learn that our Department of Justice improperly seized without notice phone records of over 100 Associated Press journalists—all in the name of national security concerns.

To me, this is a clear violation of the spirit and letter of the First Amendment. These actions border on the Soviet method of legalizing these freedoms but never allowing them. So it's time to revisit U.S. law and require in all cases judicial review where these types of records are seized.

We cannot allow our government to arbitrarily abolish the First Amendment in the name of "state secrets."

And that's just the way it is.

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES

(Mr. PETERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring further attention to the fact that unless Congress takes definitive action, student loan interest rates will double on July 1. With that in mind, I proudly support H.R. 1595, introduced by Congressman JOE COURTNEY, and other bills that would keep student interest rates frozen at their reasonable rates for the next 2 years.

Right now, college tuition is spiraling beyond what many students and their families can afford. In many instances, students are being forced to leave school because they are accruing so much debt. At UC-San Diego or the University of San Diego or Point Loma Nazarene, all of which are in my district, students are relying on us to keep loan rates low.

My own education was made possible by student loans and work-study, and we must ensure that today's generation of students has the same opportunity to attend college that I and so many of us had. I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 1595.

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

(Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Well, we once had a political party known as the Know-Nothings. We now have a President who wants us to believe that he knows nothing. He wants us to believe that he knows nothing about who decided to blame the terrorist attacks in Benghazi on a video. He wants us to believe that he knew nothing about the IRS scandal until he read the same press reports that you and I have read. He wants us to believe that he knows nothing about the Department of Justice subpoenaing 2 months of the Associated Press' phone records.

What has happened to the days in America when Democratic President Harry Truman proudly placed a placard on his desk that said: "The buck stops here"? Perhaps, sadly, we have returned to the days where the question to the President of the United States ought to be: What did you know and when did you know it?

□ 1920

LIMITING CONGRESSIONAL TERMS

(Mr. O'ROURKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. O'ROURKE. Today I joined JIM BRIDENSTINE in filing a bipartisan constitutional amendment that would allow Congress to decide whether and how to limit the terms of its Members. Our measure would not prescribe the number of terms a Member would serve; but by giving Congress the power to ultimately decide, I believe it will foster a productive conversation about how to make Congress more responsive to the needs of the American public.

Many in our country feel that Congress is focused on reelection to the exclusion of solving our country's problems. They are rightly concerned about the enormous powers of incumbency and the corrupting influence of money as well as the uncompetitive, gerrymandered districts where the Representative chooses his constituency and not the other way around.

We owe our constituents institutional reforms that address these concerns. Enacting comprehensive campaign finance reform, fixing the congressional redistricting process, and moving forward with sensible term limits can improve how Congress works.

I urge all my colleagues to join in this reform agenda.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to those men and women who have answered the call of duty to serve their community, to those who place their lives on the line each and every day for their neighbors. This week we celebrate National Police Week, and I want to thank the police officers in my community who exemplify what it means to "serve and protect."

Minnesota is proud to be home to some of the most dedicated and professional police departments in the country. I have the distinct honor to meet regularly with local police officers and leaders during my law enforcement roundtables, and I can tell you we are privileged to have such committed officers patrolling our streets.

I want to especially recognize the officers that are currently aiding in the search for Mandy Matula, an Eden Prairie woman who has been missing. I pray for her swift return. And thank you to the law enforcement, also, for whose perseverance recently brought closure to the families of Danielle Jelinek and Kira Steger Trevino, who were victims of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, as we go about our busy lives, let's take time this week to